

OUR PLATFORM.

The National Union Republican Party of the United States, Assembled in National Convention in the City of Chicago, on the 20th day of May, 1868, make the following Declaration of Principle:

BOOKS congratulate the country on the assured success of the Reconstruction policy of Congress, as evinced by the adoption, in the majority of the States lately in session, of the Constitutions securing Equal Civil and Political Rights to all, and it is the duty of the Government to sustain those institutions and to prevent the people of such States from being committed to a State of anarchy.

II. The guarantee by Congress of Equal Suffrage to all loyal men at the South was demanded by every consideration of public safety, of gratitude and of justice, and must be maintained; while the question of suffrage in all the loyal States properly belongs to the people of those States.

III. We denounce all forms of rebellion as a National crime; and National honor requires the payment of the public indebtedness in the utmost good faith to all creditors, at home and abroad, not only according to the letter, but to the spirit of the law under which it was contracted.

IV. It is due to the Labor of the Nation that taxation should be equalized and reduced as rapidly as National faith will permit,

V. The National debt, contracted as it has been for the preservation of the Union for all time to come, should be extended over a fair period for redemption; and it is the duty of Congress to reduce the rate of interest thereon whenever it can be honestly done;

VI. That the best policy to diminish our burden of debt is to improve our credit that capitalists will seek to lend us money at lower rates of interest than we now pay, and must continue to pay so long as repayment partial or total, open or covert, is threatened or suspected.

VII. That Government of the United States should be administered with the strictest economy, and the corruptions which have been so shamefully nursed and fostered by Andrew Johnson call loudly for radical reform.

VIII. We profoundly deplore the untimely and tragic death of Abraham Lincoln, and regret the accession to the Presidency of Andrew Johnson, who has acted treacherously to the people who elected him and for whose sake he has pledged his soul; who has usurped high legislative and judicial functions; who has used his influence, as does every officer, to ignore and violate the laws; who has employed his executive powers to render insecure the property, peace, liberty and life of the citizens; who has abused the pardoning powers, who has denounced the National Legislature as unconstitutional; who has persistently and corruptly resisted, by every means in his power, every proper attempt at the reconstruction of the States lately in rebellion; who has perverted the public patronage into an engine of wholesale corruption; and who has been justly impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and properly pronounced guilty thereof by the vote of thirty-five Senators.

IX. The doctrine of Great Britain and other European powers that because a man is once a subject he is always so, must be resisted at all hazards by the United States as a relic of feudal times not authorized by the laws of nations, and at war with our national honor and independence. Naturalized citizens are entitled to protection in all their rights of citizenship as though they were native-born; and no citizen of the United States, native or naturalized, must be liable to arrest and imprisonment by any foreign power for act done or words spoken in this country; and if so arrested and imprisoned, it is the duty of the Government to interfere in his behalf.

X. Of all who were faithful in the trials of the late war there were none entitled to more especial honor than the brave soldiers and seamen, who endured the hardships of camp and cruise, and emperered their lives in the service of their country. The bounties and pensions provided by the laws for these brave defenders of the nation are an obligation never to be forgotten; the widows and orphans of the gallant dead are the wards of the people—a sacred legacy bequeathed to the nation's protecting care.

XI. Foreign immigration, which in the past has added so much to the wealth, development and resources, and increase of power to the republic, the asylum of the oppressed of all nations, should be fostered and encouraged by a just and liberal policy.

XII. This Convention declares itself in sympathy with all oppressed people struggling for their rights.

Unanimously voted on motion of General Schurz.

Resolved, That we highly commend the spirit of magnanimity and forbearance with which men who have served in the rebellion, but who now frankly co-operate with us in restoring the peace of the country, and reconstructing the Southern State Governments upon the basis of Impartial Justice and Equal Rights, are received back into the communion of the loyal

people; and we favor the removal of the disqualifications and restrictions imposed upon the late Rebels in the same measure as their spirit of loyalty will direct, and as may be consistent with the safety of the loyal people.

Resolved, That we recognize the great principles laid down in the immortal Declaration of Independence, as the true foundation of democratic government; and we hail with gladness every effort toward making these principles a living reality on every inch of American soil.

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